United Nations S/2007/211

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 April 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 16 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I have the honour to write to you, in your capacity as President of the Security Council for April, regarding the inclusion in the provisional programme of work of the Council of an open debate pursuant to the letter dated 5 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Council (S/2007/186), which has been scheduled for Tuesday, 17 April 2007, and whose main objective will be exploring the relationship between energy, security and climate.

In this context, the Group of 77 and China wishes to offer its views on the decision by the Council to hold a debate on energy, security and climate.

The Council's primary responsibility is the maintenance of international peace and security, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations. On the other hand, other issues, including those relating to economic and social development, are assigned by the Charter to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The ever-increasing encroachment by the Security Council on the roles and responsibilities of other principal organs of the United Nations represents a distortion of the principles and purposes of the Charter, infringes on their authority and compromises the rights of the general membership of the United Nations.

The issues of energy and climate change are vital for sustainable development. Responsibilities in the field of sustainable development belong to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their relevant subsidiary bodies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Environment Programme. Climate change has a binding multilateral agreement, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and a supportive protocol, the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention. No role was envisaged for the Security Council.

We are of the view that it is vital for all Member States to promote sustainable development by adhering to the Rio principles, especially the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, and fully implement Agenda 21 and other commitments related to the provision of financial resources, the transfer of technology and capacity-building of developing countries, undertaken at Rio, Johannesburg and other relevant United Nations conferences in the economic and social fields.

07-30870 (E) 160407

The Group has consistently maintained that the Framework Convention on Climate Change is the appropriate forum for considering the risks associated with climate change and actions needed to address climate change in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Convention. Developed countries should take urgent action to fulfil their commitments to reducing greenhouse emissions in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol. Countries that have not yet done so should accede to the Protocol.

The Group also feels it inappropriate to consider the issue of energy in the Security Council. We reaffirm the key role of energy in achieving the goals of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the Millennium Development Goals. Therefore, we emphasize the critical role of the international community in the provision of adequate, predictable, new and additional financial resources, technology transfer and enhancing capacity-building of the developing countries, as agreed in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Also, there is a need for political will and commitment to explore innovative ways of applying energy-efficient, environmentally sound, cost-effective and socially acceptable technologies and systems.

The Group of 77 and China will continue to pursue the realization of the goals of sustainable development, as well as the fulfilment of commitments by developed countries in all relevant bodies, especially at the forthcoming fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and we urge others to do likewise.

We hope that the decision by the Council to hold this debate does not create a precedent or undermine the authority or mandate of the relevant bodies, processes and instruments that already address these issues.

I would like to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Munir **Akram**
Chairman of the Group of 77 and China
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations